

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 COME-00 ARAE-00 SCSE-00

SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 OPR-02 /048 W
----- 089489

P 111220Z MAR 76L

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4467

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 0397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC BGEN EC

SUBJ: DESTRUCTION OF SHELL OIL CO. LPG FACILITIES - GUAYAQUIL

1. GUAYAQUIL WAS SHAKEN AT ABOUT 2:30 AM YESTERDAY (10TH) WHEN THE SHELL OIL COMPANY LPG INSTALLATION WAS BLOWN INTO OBLIVION. FIRE AND EXPLOSION APPARENTLY RESULT OF HUMAN FAILURE WHEN THE PANAMANIAN REGISTERED VESSEL "MUNDIGAS" WAS DISCHARGING LPG INTO TERMINAL TANKS. APPEARS THAT LIQUID GAS WAS PERMITTED FLOW FROM VESSEL BEFORE HOSE LINES COMPLETELY CONNECTED AND PRESSURE ON LINE CAUSED WRITHING WHICH SOMEHOW SPARKED FROM COUPLING AND CAUSED FIRE. WITH REPORT OF FIRE SHIP UNCOUPLED AND ABANDONED PIER GOING TO MIDSTREAM GUAYAS RIVER. FIRE SPREAD TO SMALL TANKS AND THEN LARGE TANK WHICH EXPLODED. NO ESTIMATE OF TOTAL DAMAGE.

2. U.S. OWNED INSTALLATIONS ADJACENT FORTUNATELY SUFFERED NO SERIOUS DAMAGE. MOLINOS DEL ECUADOR (SEABOARDED MILLING & CONTINENTAL GRAIN) SUFFERED EXTENSIVE MINOR DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 80 THOUSAND DOLLARS - BROKEN WINDOWS DAMAGED ROOFING, WEAKENED BEAMS ETC. TEXACO BLENDING PLANT NO DAMAGE. RHEEM- DAMAGE TO ROOF BARREL MAKING PLANT. ADA- SOME DAMAGE TO WAREHOUSE. NO LOSS OF AMERICAN LIVES AND NONE INJURED. MOST INJURIES TO FIREFIGHTERS. IT WILL BE BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR U.S. FIRMS TODAY.

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3. BLAST LOCATED IN SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL SECTION OF TOWN ON THE RIVER

BISHTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUAYAQ00397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760092-0625
From: GUAYAQUIL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760372/aaaaclkz.tel
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: DESTRUCTION OF SHELL OIL CO. LPG FACILITIES - GUAYAQUIL
TAGS: CASC, BGEM, EC, SHELL OIL CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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